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## United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) Fourth National Conference Report

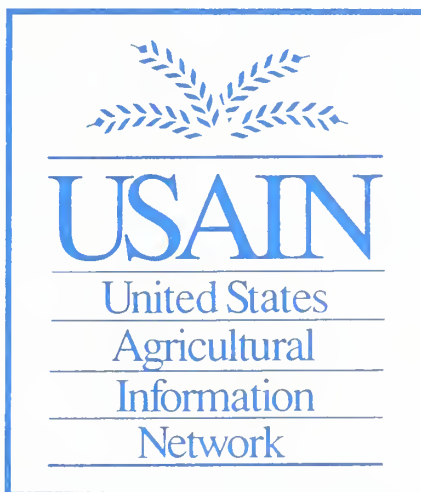
by Dana W. R. Boden with Elaine  
Nowick and Mary Cassner  
Subject Specialist/Liaison Librarians  
C. Y. Thompson Library  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Photographs by Joseph N. Swab  
ALIN Editor, NAL

The United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) Fourth National Conference was held in Lexington, Kentucky, April 26-29, 1995. The conference theme was "Cultivating New Ground in Electronic Information: Use of the Information Highway to Support Agriculture." Conference attendance numbered 105 professionals from the National Agricultural Library, land-grant institutions, federal agencies, corporations, other libraries and information providers, and vendors.

### Wednesday

The first day, Wednesday, April 26, 1995, a pre-conference, "Internet Basics Workshop," was held on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Two sessions, one in the morning and one repeated in the afternoon, hosted a total of twenty-five attendees who gained information about gophers and the World Wide Web. USAIN Committees and Interest Groups met in the late afternoon to conduct business.



### Thursday

Cynthia Via, USAIN President, chaired the welcome and opening session on Thursday morning. The featured speaker, Paul Evan Peters, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, spoke on the topic, "Of Information Highways and Byways: Networked Communication and Publication Strategies for the Rest of the 1990s and Beyond." One of his main points was that libraries have the ticket to the information highway, and the whole country is wondering what is the destination? He noted that four classes of changes are taking place: how information is rendered; how information is packaged; how markets

are segmented; and how value chains are structured and operated. The rate at which changes occur seems to be going faster, and different communities join the information pipeline at different times, dependent upon the benefits that are perceived. He recommended that we not ask what the Internet can do for us, but ask what we can do for the Internet.

Late morning speakers and their topics were: Eric Lease Morgan, Systems Librarian, North Carolina State University—"Using the World Wide Web and WAIS Technologies to Create Electronic Information Systems"; and, David Shipley, Dean of the College of Law, University of Kentucky—"Property Rights in Cyberspace: Copyright Law in the Internet Era." USAIN-L subscribers were happy to put a face with Morgan's name as he was the creator of the USAIN listserv. He noted there are three qualities required of information systems on the World Wide Web or other information system technologies: readability, browsability, and searchability. He then elaborated on the features that contribute to each of those qualities. Shipley provided a detailed handout on his topic. After presenting an informative and thought-provoking overview of the information in the handout, he responded to several questions and

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comments from the audience.

The USAIN Business Meeting and the Committee and Interest Group Reports were the agenda items at lunch on Thursday. The 1995 USAIN Scholarship winners, Mary Cassner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Debra Currie, Louisiana State University, were introduced and congratulated. Each received \$500 to apply toward the expenses of attending the conference. Amy Paster noted that the Technical Services Interest Group was being disbanded because of lack of interest. No one has shown up to meet with Amy in the past two years. It was noted the Membership Committee and the Collection Management Interest Group have no chairpersons at this time. Under new business it was announced that the fifth USAIN Conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona. Some discussion of how often to have the conference, and during what time of year ensued. The conference is being planned for April 1997. *[Editor's Note: It has since been announced that IAALD and the NAL/Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable will meet with USAIN at Tucson, April 3-5, 1997.]*

Afternoon programs included: "Connected We Can Learn—Distance Education for the Agricultural Community," presented by Janet Poley, President of A\*DEC Corporation; and "Preservation Through Electronic Means: Updates on the Core Agricultural Literature Project at Mann Library and the National Preservation Program," presented by Jan Olsen, Director of Mann Library, Cornell University. Poley discussed changes in the infrastructure of education driven by globalization, changing demographics, restructured employment, technological change, and disintegration of the ivory tower. Distance education is becoming more desirable as well as feasible. Poley recommended titles of several books dealing with change especially in education.

Olsen emphasized the importance of information as the basis of freedom and the basic nature of the agricultural literature. Since 1991, the agricultural literature to be preserved has been prioritized, a proposal to National En-



photo courtesy of Monica Stock

Local arrangements and daily management of the conference and activities were by University of Kentucky staff, (L-R) Lillian Mesner, Monica Stock, Toni Powell, Pat Wilson, and Joe Miller.

dowment for the Humanities has been written, and criteria for state level participation have been identified.

In late afternoon the recently created USAIN Social Issues Interest Group hosted the program, "Myths and Realities in Agricultural Information." Moderated by Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers University, the program featured three varied speakers: Louis Swanson, Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky, on "Transformation of U. S. Farming and Agricultural Policy"; Dorothy Robertson, a Kentucky farmer, on "Where Have All the Farmers Gone?"; and Gabriel Hegyes, Sustainable Agriculture Network Coordinator, National Agricultural Library, on "The Sustainable Agricultural Network: A Forum for Change in American Agriculture." Swanson, author of *Sacred Cows and Hot Potatoes: Agrarian Myths and Agricultural Policies*, outlined the continuing trend of fewer, larger farms employing fewer people and suggested that government policy encourages this trend. Robertson, an activist as well as farmer, suggested that USAIN has overlooked the farmers. She also maintained that government policy favors corporations at taxpayers' expense. Hegyes defined the goals of the Sustainable Agriculture Network as

providing information, discussion, and news of events designed to sustain human food and fiber needs, enhance the environment, sustain the economy, and provide biological integration over the long term.

#### Friday

The day began with three concurrent sessions where contributed papers were presented.

Session I: "Improving Access to Published and Unpublished Resources: Librarians' Perspectives" was moderated by Amy Blair, Michigan State University, and featured three presentations.

Claudine Jenda and Elizabeth Weisbrod, Auburn University Libraries, addressed "Accessibility of Federal and State Agricultural Publications: Possibilities and Realities." These librarians were instrumental in developing an online bibliography of selected federal and state agricultural publications which are owned by the Auburn University Libraries. The goal of this project is to provide individual access on a piece-by-piece basis. This bibliography, which is available through the Internet, will eventually be loaded into the Auburn University Libraries' online catalog. Currently agri-

USAIN Conference Speakers



Paul Evan Peters



Eric Lease Morgan



David Shipley



Janet Poley



Jan Olsen



Louis Swanson



Dorothy Robertson



Gabriel Hegyes



Claudine Jenda



Elizabeth Weisbrod



Debra Currie



Patricia Rodkewich



Barbara Hutchinson



Kenneth Sochats



Susan Schram



Constance Britton



cultural literature through the mid-1980's has been completed.

Debra Currie, Louisiana State University Libraries, gave a presentation entitled, "Serials Redesign: Using Electronic Document Delivery to Reshape Access to Agricultural Journal Literature." When faced with cancellation of a large number of serials, LSU decided to take a proactive approach to serial subscriptions. Faculty members were given a CARL UnCover demonstration to enable them to set up profiles in their areas of interest. They were then asked to list up to 45 journal titles, in priority order, which they considered essential for their research and teaching. At the same time faculty were supposed to indicate whether document delivery was acceptable for each of these titles. Only those titles used on a daily or weekly basis or published in a format that requires direct access (such as illustrations which do not photocopy well) were to be noted as requiring a serial subscription. Preliminary results of this project indicate a faculty willingness to cancel a significant number of serials and rely more heavily on document delivery.

"AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural Economics" was presented by Patricia J. Rodkewich, St. Paul Campus Library, University of Minnesota. Rodkewich stated the need for better access to papers in the agricultural economics field. Consequently, the library has applied for a grant which will, if received, create a national database for these papers. A three-tier approach will be employed. First, the papers will be listed by author, title, series number, and university department. Second, bibliographic information and a summary of the article will be provided. In general, each important word of the paper will be searchable. Lastly, the paper itself will be scanned into a WordPerfect read-only file. This project will be an example of librarians serving as electronic publishers as well as in a preservation role.

Session II: "Development of Internet Resources," moderated by Amy Paster, Pennsylvania State University, also featured three presentations.



At the All-Conference Reception honoring NAL's new Director, Pamela André (center), Oran Little (left), Dean, College of Agriculture, and Paul Willis (right), Director of Libraries, officially welcomed USAIN members to the University of Kentucky.

Barbara S. Hutchinson, Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona, addressed "Building an Arid Lands Information Network on the Internet." She and John M. Bancroft, also of the Arid Lands Information Center (ALIC) have built a World Wide Web site known as the Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN). Hutchinson outlined the process and described the preliminary modules.

"Promenade: An Internet Database Server for a Virtual Botanical Library," was the subject of the talk given by Kenneth Sochats, School of Library and Information Science Laboratories, University of Pittsburgh. Sochats highlighted the work being done on the National Agricultural Library Image Database Project to make collections available over the Internet. This includes the Curtis Botanical Prints. The URL for the database is:

<http://www.lis.pitt.edu>

Susan G. Schram, Food and Agriculture Program Coordinator, Consortium for International Earth Science

Information Network (CIESIN), reported on the "USDA Global Change Data Assessment and Integration Project." Schram described the progress on this project to identify USDA global environmental change information, assess the quantity and quality of the information, and make it available electronically. A World Wide Web home page has been setup. Called *Information for a Changing World*, it may be reached at:

<http://www.ciesin.org>

Schram noted that the USDA is data rich, but often agencies do not know the data other agencies have. Hopefully, this is a step in remedying that situation.

Session III: "End Users and Agricultural Information: Improving Connections," with M. Kay Mowery, University of Georgia, as moderator, highlighted two papers.

The first paper, presented by Constance J. Britton, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State University, was entitled



Jan Fryer



Linda Hutchinson



John Ulmschneider



Pamela André



Oya Reiger



Peter Cookingham



Barbara Lazewski



Rich Gates



Barry Kiger



Karen Pulliam



Robyn Frank



Richard Thompson

"Agricultural Information via the Cleveland Free-Net." The Cleveland Free-Net was started in 1986 as a community-based medical question and answer Bulletin Board System, but quickly expanded to cover a wide range of topics and formats. The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) wanted to provide information on the Free-Net on issues of interest to urban dwellers as well as to farmers, and so information on topics such as food and the environment is

included. OARDC information can be found in the home, yard, and garden entry in the Science and Technology menu. The menu page contains an "about" file, a directory of resources, calendar of events, a what's new section, extension publications, and a question-and-answer forum. Questions are answered on topics such as pest control, laundry care, or yard care, etc., primarily from traditional reference sources. There is a 24-hour turnaround time for questions, and answers

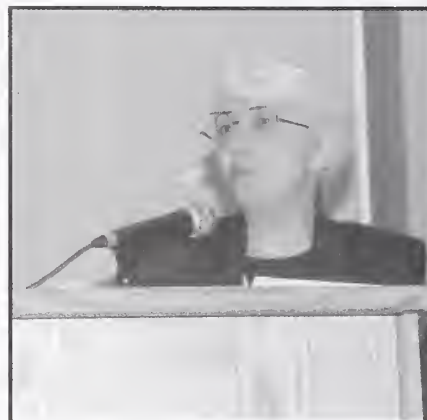
can be posted to the bulletin board or sent to personal e-mail. Presently, the Lorraine County Free-Net is in the process of being set up with the help of Tom Grundig of National Public Telecommunications, a group devoted to extending Free-Net services to rural areas. This Free-Net will have an agricultural orientation and can be run by extension agents once it is established. National Public Telecommunications can be contacted at:

<http://nptn.org>





The AGRICOLA interest group meets on the first day of the USAIN conference.



Anita Battiste gives the report of the AGRICOLA group.

The second paper, presented by Jan Fryer, Parks Library, and Linda Hutchinson, Cooperative Extension Service, both of Iowa State University, was "Training Extension Staff to Drive on the Information Superhighway." The Extension Information Network was created under the terms of a \$1.226 million National Science Foundation grant to enable extension offices throughout Iowa to connect to the Internet through the Iowa State backbone and to provide training and ongoing support. Installation proceeded ahead of schedule and training sessions had to be adjusted accordingly. Training schedules were held at one, two,

three, and twelve months after installation. The project as a whole went smoothly although there were some problems with networking and the technology was changing even as the system was being designed and set up. Ongoing maintenance and support will be provided for relocations, new and continuing training, and improved software and hardware. Specific proficiency goals have been established for the ISU Extension staff. These include use of e-mail, telnetting, database searching using Gopher, FTP, and News-groups. Field staff also learn how to send and receive files and print to remote locations.

Mid-morning on Friday, John Ulmschneider, Assistant Director for Library Systems, North Carolina State University, spoke on "Document Delivery in the Electronic Environment." He noted where document delivery is today and that software and network technologies hold the promise of an ideal system for document delivery in the future. Patrons want to be able to find any needed item using normal library tools, without being concerned about the format or location. Libraries want to provide that, but presently must be concerned with the labor, time, management, and agreements needed to make it possible.



The Telecommunications and Networking Committee meets as the USAIN conference begins.



Barbara Hutchinson gives the Telecommunications report.





The Rural Information Interest Group meets at the USAIN conference.



Margaret Merrill presents the Rural Information report.

The new Director of the National Agricultural Library, Pamela Q. J. André, gave an NAL Update late Friday morning. She spoke about changes resulting from the reorganization within USDA which merged NAL into the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). She outlined staffing and organization changes at NAL including streamlining with a 7% cut in personnel over the next 5 years—about 15 staff. Programs that will continue include the Electronic Information Initiative to acquire, preserve, and provide materials become in electronic format, helping to establish an Egyptian National Library, the Central and Eastern Europe Project, and improving alliances and links with land-grant universities to put together teams for cooperation.

An International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (still known as IAALD) Planning Meeting, open to all interested in international agricultural information and moderated by Barbara S. Hutchinson, Arids Lands Information Center, University of Arizona, and Antoinette P. Powell, Director, Agriculture Library, University of Kentucky, was held Friday evening.

#### Saturday

Saturday's sessions began with four speakers on the theme "Internet Re-

sources in Agriculture," moderated by Jean Gilbertson, University of Wisconsin.

Oya Reiger, Mann Library, Cornell University, spoke on "Mann Library on the Net and the USDA Statistics and Report System." Reiger indicated that the system accessible via telnet will be phased out and that the World Wide Web site is accessible at:

<http://www.mannlib.cornell.edu>

The globe icon indicates open access, while the Cornell logo indicates databases available to University--affiliated persons only. She outlined the wide range of information available, invited attendees to "check it out," and noted data accessed via the USDA Economics and Statistics System can only be downloaded using a Lotus 1,2,3 system.

Second, was Peter Cookingham, Michigan State University, who enlightened attendees with "Turfgrass Information Center and TGIF." Cookingham noted that the target audience for the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is field practitioners, and that there is little federal presence in the turf area, since turfgrass is not considered an agricultural crop. Information in the field is hard to access because of the range of publications that

may cover it. Articles may be indexed by *Reader's Guide*, AGRICOLA, CAB International, and others. The file must be subscribed to for access via the Internet, at a rate of \$75 annually. The file not only covers articles, but also book chapters, state and regional turf conferences, etc. As a result the file contains a high percentage of unique holdings. Document delivery online is available with a 48-hour turnaround.

"University of Minnesota Forestry



Irwin Weintraub reports for the Social Issues Interest Group.



Kay Mowrey (L) and Rita Fisher (R) visit with Carol Robertson at IAALD's information table.



Biddanda Ponnappa talks to Ellen Mimnaugh, representative of Chemical Abstracts Service.

Databases on the Internet," presented by Patricia Rodkewich, University of Minnesota, noted that topics covered by the databases include Social Sciences in Forestry, Urban Forestry, Tropical Forestry Conservation and Development, and Trails Planning, Construction, and Maintenance. Jean Albrecht started and works most directly with these databases. To reach the databases point your gopher client at:

[minerva.forestry.umn.edu](http://minerva.forestry.umn.edu) (port 70)

Barbara Lazewski, University of Wisconsin-Madison, enlightened the group with her "Favorite Agricultural Internet Resources." She noted that Gopher is passé now that the World Wide Web has been unleashed. She provided a handout with information on the resources she covered and their addresses.

Following the above presentations, Saturday morning breakout exhibits/demonstrations were held to allow attendees to gather more information on the items that most piqued their interests.

Over lunch, talk tables were held. Attendees signed up ahead of time at the registration desk for the topic of most interest to them. Many topics were related to areas covered by

USAIN Interest Groups, while there were some others such as one on USAIN-L. Short reports on the discussion at each table were presented after lunch. Also candidates for the USAIN Council were announced.

Saturday afternoon a panel moderated by Pat Wilson, University of Kentucky, addressed "Experiences of Internet Users." The panel consisted of non-information professionals who work with Internet resources speaking on their Internet experiences. Panel members, all from the University of Kentucky, were: Rich Gates, Research Faculty, Agricultural Engineering; Barry Kiger, Morgan County Extension Agent for Agriculture; and Karen Pulliam, Technical Support Programmer, Agricultural Economics. Each member of the panel addressed a list of questions including how they got started on the Internet, what training they have had, how they choose resources, and what the potential of the Internet is in their field.

Robyn Frank, National Agricultural Library, addressed "NAL and the Internet." Frank discussed the Internet access aspects of NAL's electronic information initiative, its impact on NAL and its impact on NAL's patrons. The potential for wider, increased, quicker access and visibility, resulting in

reduced and/or shifted costs was highlighted.

Concluding the sessions at the conference was Richard Thompson, National Agricultural Library, speaking on "The Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC): A Model for Access to Distributed Resources." Thompson introduced and elaborated on the plan for AgNIC which was drawn up at a December 1994 meeting. The model as presented was inviting and it is hoped the plans can move forward to implementation.

### Other Events

Exhibitors at the fourth USAIN Conference were Acres U.S.A., CAB International, Chemical Abstracts Service, International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD), and the National Agricultural Library. Vendor representatives participated with conference attendees in many of the meetings, discussions, and social events, as well as presenting the latest information about their products in their booths. This contact is always beneficial to both the vendors and the information professionals.

A quite enjoyable event included for full conference attendees was "Old Kentucky Night at the Kentucky Horse Park" on Wednesday. This treat in-



cluded our own maize colored bandanas to designate our group. Highlights of the Kentucky Horse Park included hayride or walking farm tours of the park, the Hall of Champions and the Breeds Barns, the International Museum of the Horse, the Gift Shop, and the film "Thou Shalt Fly Without Wings." A special treat was seeing preparations for the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event which began the next day. A wonderful dinner buffet, with several traditional Kentucky dishes, was enjoyed by all. The after-dinner entertainment got everyone tapping their toes and clapping their hands. Several attendees found themselves dancing off some of their dinner as the McClain Family Cloggers from Georgetown, Kentucky, got many up on their feet and out on the floor to learn some steps with them.

Thursday's activities were concluded with an All-Conference Reception honoring Pamela Q. J. André, recently appointed Director of the National Agricultural Library. Welcoming remarks were provided by C. Oran Little, Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Paul Willis, Director of Libraries. André then responded and expressed her appreciation for the reception in her honor, and highlighted her hopes for NAL's future.

Friday morning early risers were encouraged to join a walking tour of the University of Kentucky Coldstream Farm. Located just across Newtown Pike from the Holiday Inn-North where the conference was held, the farm is one of the University's large animal experimental farms. The invigorating three-mile walk gave the participants a lovely view of a Bluegrass sunrise.

Friday, a special treat was offered to forty attendees who made reservations in advance for an afternoon at the races at Keeneland Race Track. The slogan at Keeneland is "Racing as it was meant to be." There is no public address system at Keeneland, which has been designated a National Historic Landmark, and two of the day's nine races were on turf. A tasteful buffet was included in the accommodations in the Kentucky Room located four floors



Kathleen Clark (L) visits with Andrea Powell, representative of CAB International, at the CABI exhibit.

above the finish line. To truly experience Keeneland one had to visit the paddock area to see the jockeys and the thoroughbreds with their trainers prior to racing. The paddock area, with its tall trees, is located between the grandstand entrance and the main grandstand. All attendees came away winners from experiencing the beauty, atmosphere, and good time, whether their pocketbooks showed it or not.

Conference-goers who did not go to

Keeneland enjoyed other attractions of the central bluegrass area, such as the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event at the Kentucky Horse Park, touring some of Lexington's historic places like Transylvania University (first institution of higher education west of the Appalachian Mountains), Ashland (Henry Clay's home), or the downtown Historic District. Others ventured to the shopping malls, the University of Kentucky campus, or to the nearby



Cynthia Via, USAIN President, presided over the conference.



Toni Powell, host of the conference, is next USAIN President.

town of Berea, known for its crafts.

Saturday's final event was an evening buffet by the pool at the Holiday Inn-North. Enjoyed by several of the conference attendees who were still in attendance, it featured a full dinner and friendly conversation to conclude an informative USAIN conference in the heart of the beautiful horse country of Kentucky.

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### Dana Boden

Dana W. R. Boden, one of the authors of the report on the USAIN conference, is an Associate Professor and Subject Specialist Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has liaison responsibilities for five departments in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, namely Agronomy, Biological Systems Engineering, Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Plant Pathology, plus the Center for Biotechnology. She holds a B.S. in Agriculture and an M.A. in Education from Western Kentucky University, and the M.S.L.S. from the University of Kentucky. She currently is working on a doctoral degree in Postsecondary Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Dana Boden



Elaine Nowick

### Elaine Nowick

Elaine Nowick, one of the co-authors of the report on the USAIN conference, joined the library faculty at C. Y. Thompson Library of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in February of 1995, having completed an MLS through Emporia State University's "Emporia in the Rockies" program in December 1994. Her duties at C. Y. Thompson include reference, collection development, and liaison activities to the Departments of Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Biomedicine, Biometry, and Food Science and Technology. Nowick also holds advanced degrees in agronomy from Colorado State University and Iowa State University.



Mary Cassner

### Mary Cassner

Mary Cassner, one of the co-authors of the report on the USAIN conference, is an Assistant Professor and Subject Specialist Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her duties include reference, collection development, and library instruction in her liaison areas of Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife; Agricultural Meteorology; Entomology; and Dentistry. She holds B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Nebraska as well as the



Debra L. Currie

M.L.S. from Emporia State University. Cassner was a scholarship recipient at the 1995 USAIN Conference.

### Debra L. Currie

Debra L. Currie, in addition to Mary Cassner, was a scholarship recipient at the 1995 USAIN Conference. She is the Agriculture Reference Librarian at LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. She received a B.S. (Animal Science) and an M.S. (Library Science) from the University of Kentucky.



The following report, covering much of the same material as the preceding report, presents a different perspective and emphasis and adds to the information for *ALIN* readers.

## USAIN 1995 Conference : A Travel Log

by Eric Lease Morgan, Systems Librarian, North Carolina State University

The United States Agriculture Information Network (USAIN) held its 1995 Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY, April 26-29. While I was not able to attend the entire conference, this travel log documents the events I was able to attend.

### Wednesday, April 26

The conference began with a number of pre-conference Internet workshops, but things did not really begin to happen until the attendees were treated to a visit to the Kentucky Horse Park. At the park we got to see the grave of Man o' War, and more horses than you could "shake a stick at," including John Henry. In order to see the entire 1000+ acres of farm, some attendees opted for a hay ride. The farm also had a very nice horse museum. (Of course I was most interested in the Morgan horses.) After a meal of fried chicken and barbecue, we were entertained by clogging-style dancers. The whole event was a good ice breaker.

### Thursday, April 27

The Meeting was officially brought to order by Cynthia Via, the President of USAIN. She made a few management remarks and introduced the first speaker.

Paul Evan Peters, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) presented "Of Information Highways and Byways: Networked Communication and Publica-

tion Strategies for the Rest of the 1990's and Beyond." He began by saying libraries are in the vanguard of the Information Age and we should "get up in the morning and say 'I'm in the vanguard.'" At the same time he believes the language of the "digital library" has not stabilized yet and there are still many aspects of these new technologies that need to be explored. In many ways, libraries are like canaries in a cage being sent into hazardous areas to see how we survive. To strengthen our position we need to develop a theory of digital libraries; understand its causes and effects; predict how people will use the resources and scholarly communication; build a relationship between libraries and users; and look for ways to become more theoretical. Peter's Special Theory or guidelines for such a theory include:

- The need for basic guideposts (networking and electromagnetic formats in general like CDROMs as well as the Internet);
- The need to focus on social constructions (the way people conceive of the things, economic developments, and enhancements to research);
- Take into account the things that are changing and how they are

rendered, formatted, or packaged, keeping in mind that the real cost of all these materials is in the authors and readers and not the librarians and publishers;

- Take into account the things that are emerging like digital documents and knowledge as the property of the user rather than the author.

The future of libraries includes many challenges:

- Confusion of libraries with collections (we offer more than books);
- Linkage of libraries with the young and the economically disadvantaged, and intellectual property policies and procedures (libraries are not about catching the downwardly mobile but rather the upwardly mobile);
- Putting data in context (subject analysis)

Peter's final remarks were "Demo or die. Cheap stunts are okay, and leadership is our only choice. Ask not what the internet can do for you, but you can do for the internet."

Eric Lease Morgan of North Carolina State University Libraries then presented "Using the World Wide Web



photo: Joseph N. Swab

USAIN members enjoy the hay-ride-tour of the Kentucky Horse Park; at left is a sculpture of the Morgan horse at the museum.



photo: Joseph N. Swab

USAIN members dance with the McClain Family Cloggers at the "Old Kentucky Night at the Kentucky Horse Park."

and WAIS Technologies to Create Electronic Information Systems." Text available at:

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/staff/-morgan/eric-talks-at-usain.html>

"Property Rights in Cyberspace: Copyright Law in the Internet Era" was then delivered by David Shipley of the University of Kentucky College of Law. This presentation offered more questions than answers and tried, in a small way, to predict a bit of the future when it comes to copyright. Some of those questions included:

- What will be the status of "fair use" after revision of the copyright law?
- Are authors going to want to get involved in electronic publishing?
- Will we see "pay as you go, built-in meters" from things like the Copyright Clearinghouse Center?

Shipley then alluded to the possibility of publishers skirting the copyright issues and fair use issues through the use of licenses. These licenses will provide restrictions that fair use would normally accommodate, but since the licenses are binding contracts, the issues of fair use which libraries have enjoyed will be eliminated. He also mentioned a number of issues being discussed by the NII working group and how their recommendations may

effect copyright and libraries. In summary, Shipley said there are no clear cut answers to these problems and "everything is constantly changing."

Janet Poley of A\*DEC Corporation gave an articulate presentation "Connected We Can Learn – Distance Education of the Agriculture Community." She began by stating that people are looking to the information highway as a vehicle for education. She then discussed how we, as librarians, can be players in this new environment. The traditional learning method is not as effective as it could be. We need a national learning infrastructure, including workplace, home, distance education, and outreach.

Poley stated that globalization, demographics, technology, and disintegration of higher education's "ivory tower" are all part of this change. Three factors, according to the PEW Roundtable, for change include privatization, technological change, and vocationalization.

Poley said we must figure out how to sustain the information we create when, at the same time, we want to give it away. How do we put a value on the information? She then enumerated a number of ways we can handle change ranging from entrepreneurship to ex-

pense reduction. There are four cultures in higher education: Collegial; Managerial; Developmental; and Negotiation. Changes in higher education will have to include these various cultures.

Poley then enumerated a number of issues involving change ranging from accreditation, external forces, reduction of public funding, to monopolies of information, being producers of information as opposed to only being a consumer.

The last session I attended on Thursday was given by Jan Olsen, Director of the Mann Library, Cornell University. The title of her presentation was "Preservation Through Electronic Means: Updates on the Core Agricultural Literature Project at Mann Library and the National Preservation Program." This presentation outlined and described the national effort for the preservation of agricultural information. She began by giving us a history of the plan from its inception in 1991 resulting in the "Purple Plan" in 1993 [Editor's note: *A National Preservation Program for Agricultural Literature*, by Nancy E. Gwinn, et al., May 1993, was originally distributed with a purple cover]. The plan listed the pivotal types of agricultural literature genres including: manuscripts; land-grant



publications; State/county documents; pre-1862 imprints; unique collections in library institutions, significant at the local level; Federal documents; core popular and trade journals; and scholarly books and journals.

The plan suggested the appointment of a national coordinator for a 3 year term who would create momentum for the plan. Technologies for preservation purposes were to be hybrid in form: microfilm and electronic. Pieces of the information would be used to create a bibliography of these materials and provide mechanisms for delivering the information (quite possibly over the Internet).

Mann Library of Cornell University was selected as one of the libraries to begin doing some of this preservation from the 9 states that were qualified for participation. Mann staff began by creating a universe of documents through lists of subjects from numerous New York collections. Items from this list were then prioritized using expertise drawn from scholars. This aspect of the work was very interesting. To date the preservation work of the Mann Library includes 577 monographs and 633 serial volumes. Many have been microfiched. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the documents have been preserved. Twenty percent (20%) of the items are copyrighted. Olsen discussed the difficulties in trying to get the rights to copy. This part of the project was also notable and could easily be used as a model for other copyrighted materials.

#### Friday, April 28

The day began with a number of contributed papers in the form of concurrent sessions. I went to "Session II: Development of Internet Resources" where the first paper was given by Barbara Hutchinson of the Arid Lands Information Center (ALIC) entitled "Building an Arid Lands Information Network on the Internet." Hutchinson began by listing the tools and the resources ALIC used to create its World Wide Web service: purpose, people, computers, internet connection, server software, production software, browsers, cataloging/indexing software,

search/retrieval software. Hutchinson went on to list the sorts of information put on the Web server (e.g., newsletters, a biodiversity project, and the Linkages Project) and then compared and contrasted the electronic versions of the newsletters with the printed versions. She believes ALIC has improved primary communications methods with the use of the Web.

Kenneth Sochats of the School of Library and Information Science Laboratories, University of Pittsburgh then presented "Promenade: An Internet Database Server for a Virtual Botanical Library." Essentially, Sochats presented the developments of a research grant from the National Agriculture Library (NAL) to make available image collections over the Internet including the Curtis Botanical prints and an image collection of plant pests and diseases. When this project began, the WWW was not available and it was initially intended to compare the use of the Internet with the use of CD-ROM to distribute the collection. After the development of HTML+ (forms-capable HTML), the focus changed to creation of a database server.

Susan G. Schram of the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) outlined what her organization is doing to disseminate information in the "USDA Global Change Data Assessment and Integration Project." The purpose of CIESIN is to make data and information available to people who need it in areas of agriculture and the environment. One of their goals has been to locate the various data sets available from the agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). A search engine enabling the researcher to search these multiple databases through the Internet with a single query is being developed. Much of the organization's information is being put on the Web as possible, and "data rescue" for data sets "at risk" is being explored. These datasets include paper-based records of environmental statistics dating from as far back as 1915, etc.

The last session I went to was entitled "Document Delivery in the Electronic Environment" presented by

John Ulmschneider of the North Carolina State University Libraries. Instead of describing the Triangle Research Library Network's Document Delivery Project, Ulmschneider outlined qualities of document delivery and what document delivery systems need to incorporate in order to be effective, including: conceiving the desire for an item, ordering the item at the point of desire, processing the order automatically, delivering the item, providing the item in an appropriate format, billing for the item. He then listed who was doing document delivery and described how these services worked. He went on to describe our present interlibrary loan departments as third-party intermediaries doing document delivery but one of the more differentiating because they provide things other than articles (like books and videotapes) and they lend to other services. He then outlined the ideal picture for document delivery from the libraries and users perspective. Some of these things are happening already like automatic verification, location of items using unique identifiers, automatic transmission and monitoring, and automatic delivery of requested items. Finally, he diagrammed the document delivery process that is being implemented as a part of the TRLN Document Delivery Project. Ulmschneider predicted the increase of cost in document delivery services and the real possible risk that document delivery may drastically change the face of librarianship.

#### Summary

The conference was well planned and small enough to get acquainted with the fellow attendees. While many of the attendees did not seem to be presently exploiting the networked environment to its fullest degree, everybody was genuinely interested in the topic.

I think that if copyright issues are to be determined by licenses, and if the information environment of the future will be driven by market forces, then we librarians should just say "No" to licenses, and consequently we can control the marketplace.

Remember to include the qualities of readability, browsability, and searchability into your information systems.

The national preservation program as initiated by the Mann Library seems like an excellent model.

Finally, libraries, as institutions must adapt with the times and the technologies. This conference exemplified the realization of the need to adapt.

NOTE: The above report is a slightly edited version of Eric Lease Morgan's electronic document, "USAIN '95: A travel log," which can be found at:

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/staff/morgan/usain-95/>



photo: J. Swab

Eric Lease Morgan

## Eric Morgan

Eric Lease Morgan, author of the preceding report, is a systems librarian at the North Carolina State University Libraries, Box 7111, Room 2316-b, Raleigh, NC 27695-7111; [eric\\_morgan@ncsu.edu](mailto:eric_morgan@ncsu.edu); <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/staff/morgan/>. He has a BA in Philosophy from Bethany College, Bethany, WV (1982), and an MIS from Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA (1987). Eric considers himself a librarian first and a computer user second. His professional goal is to discover new ways to use computers to improve library service.

## Authors' Abstracts of Papers from the USAIN National Conference, "Cultivating New Ground in Electronic Information: Use of the Information Highway to Support Agriculture," Lexington, Kentucky, April 26-29, 1995\*

\*Not all papers were submitted for publication, but some are still expected to be received. Full papers are being published in the *Journal of Agricultural & Food Information*, edited by Robyn C. Frank (Head, Information Centers Branch, NAL), and published by Haworth Press, Inc, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580. Abstracts are arranged in the order papers were presented at the USAIN conference. Additional abstracts will be included in future *ALIN* issues if available. For photos of the speakers see those in the conference report on the preceding pages.

**Using World Wide Web and WAIS Technologies to Create Electronic Information Systems**  
Eric Lease Morgan  
Systems Librarian, North Carolina State University

This paper describes three qualities, readability, browsability, and searchability of useful information systems. Information systems are defined as any collection of information. Thus World Wide Web (WWW) servers are information systems. Readability is defined in terms of good page layout and design. Browsability is achieved by the effective organization of a system's information into categories. Advantages and disadvantages of purely browsable systems are outlined. Searchability is described in terms of its advantages

and disadvantages as well. Using all three of these qualities thoroughly, information systems can be useful and effective. Brief descriptions of how these qualities can be implemented in WWW servers are then outlined, specifically through the use of the hypertext markup language (HTML), database applications, and two Wide Area Information Server (WAIS) gateways: [kidofwais.pl](http://kidofwais.pl) and [SFGate](http://SFGate).

**Property Rights in Cyberspace: Copyright Law in the Internet Era**  
David E. Shipley  
Dean, University of Kentucky, College of Law

The rights and interests of authors, compilers, database creators, and copyright owners are colliding with the rights and interests of educators, scholars, researchers, and librarians on the information superhighway. Copyright law effectively balances their competing rights and interests in traditional forms of expression and communication, but copyright's effectiveness is tested in our fast changing digital era by the ease with which ideas, information, and copyrighted materials can be reproduced, modified, linked, and transmitted to many persons in an instant. Recommendations for changes in copyright law have been made, but many persons believe that the balance is shifting too far in favor of the rights and interests of copyright owners. The debate over the appropriate balance between these competing rights and interests in cyberspace will continue with the expansion of the information superhighway.

**Serials Redesign: Using Electronic Document Delivery to Reshape Access to Agriculture Journal Literature**  
Debra L. Currie, Agriculture Reference Librarian, Louisiana State University Libraries

In response to financial pressures resulting from escalating serials prices and severe budget constraints, LSU Libraries have launched a complete and comprehensive evaluation and



redesign of its serials collection. The Serials Redesign Project is an innovative approach to the serials review process using electronic document delivery to facilitate the integration of access and ownership. Library liaisons help promote faculty acceptance and support, which will be crucial to the success of the project. Background information, the project methodology, faculty responses, and preliminary results for two pilot studies and for the Agriculture departments are presented.

#### **AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural Economics—Working Papers on the Internet**

**Patricia M. Rodkewich**

**Reference Librarian (Agricultural Economics), University of Minnesota (St. Paul)**

**and Louise M. Letnes**

**Librarian, Waite Library, University of Minnesota (St. Paul)**

This paper discusses the building of a full text database of working papers produced by agricultural economics departments in U.S. universities. The authors propose to collect, index, and publish these papers on the Internet (WWW/GOPHER), making them searchable and immediately available for electronic transfer to the computer of any researcher requesting them.

#### **Promenade: An Internet Database Server for a Virtual Botanical Image Library**

**Stuart McLean**

**School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh [Presented by Kenneth Sochats]**

Discussion of the development of an Internet-accessible image database. This project integrates free-text search with menu-based field value selection to access data from an Object Oriented Database Management System. Alternative models are explored and the implications of using the World Wide Web (WWW) as the chosen solution are considered. Issues of maintaining a virtual library of transient or dynamic documents are introduced.

#### **USDA Global Environmental Change Data Assessment and Integration Project**

**Susan G. Schram**

**Food and Agriculture Program Coordinator, CIESIN and Project Manager for the USDA Global Change Data Assessment and Integration Project, Washington, DC**

**and William W. Wallace, Senior Systems Analyst, CIESIN, Terrestrial Ecosystem Regional Research and Analysis (TERRA) Laboratory, Fort Collins, CO**

The United States Congress has become increasingly concerned that the agricultural crops of economic importance in the United States could be significantly stressed by global environmental changes, and has recognized that USDA databases can provide significant information for policy makers and resource managers to use in addressing this problem. This paper describes three years of progress in a project designed to identify USDA global environmental change information, [including datasets, models, and Geographic information System (GIS) applications], assess the quantity and quality of this information, and make metadata concerning this information widely available electronically. The project also addresses the preservation of data at risk of being lost, and ways to integrate information for the assessment of specific issues.

#### **Agricultural Information via the Cleveland Free-Net**

**Constance J. Britton**

**Librarian, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio**

In 1993, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center became an agricultural information provider on the Cleveland Free-Net, the first community-based computer system. The benefits of participation have been increased visibility for the Center among the citizens of northeast Ohio and an opportunity to help meet the information needs of the Free-Net users.

#### **Forestry Databases on the Internet**

**Patricia M. Rodkewich**

**Reference Librarian (Agricultural Economics), University of Minnesota (St. Paul)**

**and Jean Albrecht**

**Forestry Librarian, University of Minnesota**

The Forestry Library of the University of Minnesota produces four bibliographic databases which are mounted on a Gopher server and are available to researchers over the Internet. The four databases are Social Sciences in Forestry; Urban Forestry; Tropical Forest Conservation and Development, and Trail Planning, Construction and Maintenance. The four databases cover subjects which, because of their interdisciplinary nature and pattern of publication, tend to receive poor coverage in the standard forestry databases. These databases reflect the collections of the University of Minnesota.

#### **Internet Resources in Agriculture: Favorite Sources of an Internet Trainer**

**Barbara Lazewski**

**Senior Academic Librarian, Reference, Steenbock Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Internet resources used in one-hour drop-in sessions on "Internet Resources in Agriculture and Life Sciences Using the World Wide Web" at Steenbock Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, are described. Covers subject arranged sites and guides, article indexes, and specialty sources such as NetVet.

### **Reminder**

USAIN's next national conference will be at Tuscon, Arizona, April 3-5, 1997.

The International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) and the NAL/Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable will also be meeting at the same time and place.

Mark your calendars.



**Special  
Events**

## Congressional Field Day on Precision Agriculture

Remarks by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman  
USDA Agricultural Research Center  
Beltsville, Maryland — June 19, 1995

What we see here today is much more than technology to give American farmers an edge in the emerging global marketplace. This a tremendous example of a Nation turning its swords into plowshares. Many of the processes being demonstrated here today were originally developed for the military.

Technology that allows a military rescue team to find Captain Scott O'Grady in the middle of a Bosnian forest, land safely and unannounced within yards of his position, and pluck him out of harm's way...this same technology can guide a tractor through a 500-acre field to the precise locations of insect infestation, or to a spot where plant nutrient levels are below average.

Precision agriculture works through tractor-mounted computers and satellite connections to measure yields and anticipate fertilizer and pesticide needs within feet of the tractor's actual position.

Precision agriculture will help producers cut their chemical

costs. It will help them apply just the exact amount needed, where it's needed, when it's needed. By the foot, not the field. By the condition, not the calendar.

Precision agriculture will help the environment. Farm chemicals in excess of what is needed leach into our groundwater, run into our rivers and streams. Precision agriculture allows us to avoid that.



photo: J. Swab

**Kate Hayes, Coordinator of TTIC, confers with Dr. Richard H. Parry, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Technology Transfer, ARS, at the WQIC exhibit.**



photo: J. Swab

**NAL's Technology Transfer (TTIC) and Water Quality (WQIC) Information Centers exhibited at the Precision Agriculture Field Day.**

Precision agriculture will help family farmers and rural America. Farm operations of every size can reap the cost savings and environmental benefits of this technology. Moreover, we see precision agriculture spawning a host of rural-based service industries that will bring these technologies to family farmers and economic opportunities to rural America.

If we think of our traditional agricultural commodity programs as a safety net for America's farmers, then we must think of our agricultural research as a ladder. We all know that commodity program spending is going to take cuts in the 1995 farm legislation. There is no debate over that issue today; the debate is simply over how much and how fast.

As the farmer's safety net is reduced, it is imperative that the rungs of the ladder be strong. It is imperative that our farmers and our rural communities have the tools to play and win in increasingly competitive global markets. And it is equally imperative that



these tools protect our resource base, our land, our water, our air.

When President Clinton spoke at the National Rural Conference in Ames, Iowa, about the need for more agricultural research and the responsibility and obligation of the national government to support agricultural research, I am sure he had this type of activity in mind. Precision farming technologies are being developed through federal, state, and local cooperation, public and private partnerships. Precision farming helps the farmer. Precision farming helps the environment. Precision farming helps rural communities. Precision farming helps America.



photo: J. Swab

(Above) Congressman Pat Roberts of Kansas, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, responds to a journalist's question at one of the ARS precision agriculture demonstration fields. Also participating in this interview is Congressman Joe Skeen (right) of New Mexico, Committee on Appropriations, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.



photo: J. Swab

(Above) Congressmen Skeen and Roberts view the computer portion of the Precision Agriculture Field Day demonstrations. The computer, linked by satellite to the equipment in the field (below), controls the application of fertilizers and other chemicals, the need for which has been determined by remote sensing from the same satellite. This technology can be used to monitor moisture, crop yield, insects and weeds, soil conditions, etc., and to control the corrective applications.



## NAL Participates in Sustainable Agriculture Field Day; Rominger Visits NAL

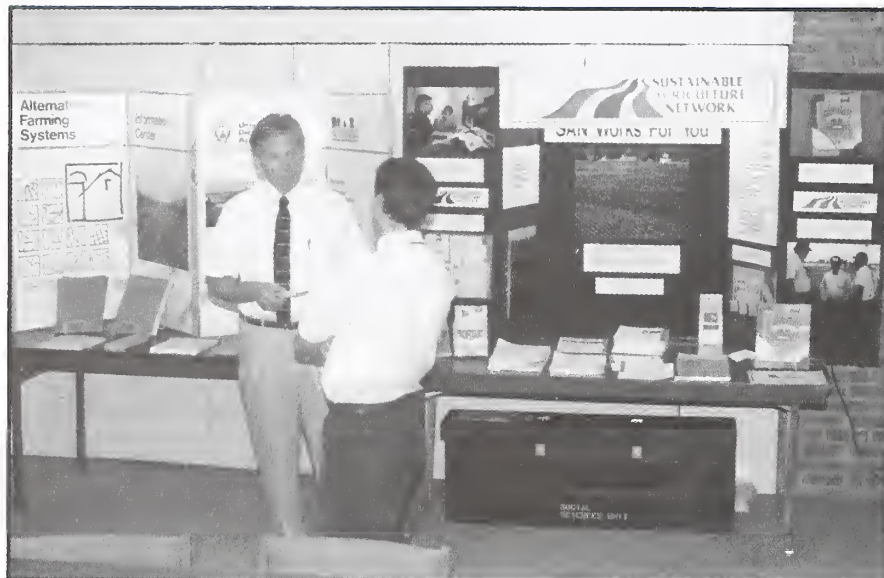


photo: Ray Stevens

Andy Clark (back to camera), Coordinator of SAN, talks at the Sustainable Agriculture Field Day with Dr. J. Scott Angle, Associate Dean for Research, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

On the 19th of July, the National Agricultural Library participated in the "Third Annual Sustainable Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management Field Day" of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). During the Field Day, ARS presented a cross section of the research being done in sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management (IPM) at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), and, through a poster display, IPM work on landscape plants at the National Arboretum (which is part of ARS, Beltsville Area). Visitors attending the Field Day were able to see research in seventeen field plots in various locations on three farms on the BARC campus, and eight displays and exhibits in a laboratory building.

The introduction to the 25 program abstracts stated:

BARC is an ideal place to conduct research on sustainable agriculture and IPM in the mid-eastern states. With about 400 scientists of many disciplines and about 900 technicians and other support personnel, BARC is the largest research center in the USDA's Agricultural Research Ser-

vice. It is also the largest agricultural research center in the world in scope of programs and number of scientists. BARC can readily form interdisciplinary teams of plant scientists, animal scientists, soil scientists, postharvest scientists, entomologists, nutritionists, and economists. Sited on 7,000 acres, BARC has all the necessary skills, land, and facilities needed for research on sustainable agriculture and IPM.

The Library's Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) was one of the exhibiting organizations in the Biosciences Building at BARC. AFSIC specializes in information about farming methods that maintain the health and productivity of the entire farming enterprise, including the natural resources base, that is, methods that promote sustainable agriculture. AFSIC focuses on alternative farming systems, for example, low-input, regenerative, biodynamic, organic, that protect natural resources while maintaining agricultural productivity and profitability. Methods employed by such systems include reduced tillage, use of legumes in crop rotations, increased use of green manures and animal manures, IPM and biological controls, and farm diversification through alternative enterprises and/or new crops or varieties. In addition to information about these



photo: J. Swab

(L-R) Keith Russell, Mrs. Rominger, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger, and Tom Bryant, Jr.





photos: J. Swab

The Romingers examine NAL's Jefferson letters (which are encapsulated in mylar.)

methods, AFSIC provides information about crops grown as raw materials for industrial production, about new uses for traditional crops, and about the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

At the Field Day, AFSIC staff answered questions related to the activities, services, and information products (publications, videotapes, electronic media) of the Center, and assisted visitors in their search for data and documents. A part of AFSIC's exhibit was the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) exhibit.

SAN, funded by USDA's SARE program, is a cooperative effort of university, government, farm, business, and non-profit organizations dedicated to the exchange of scientific and practical



Dr. Reveal discusses rare botanical books with the Romingers.

information on sustainable agricultural systems. SAN is housed at NAL in the offices of AFSIC. Using a variety of printed and electronic communications tools, SAN encourages a two-way flow of information about sustainable agriculture among a diversity of information providers and users. At the

Field Day, staff presented the capabilities and uses of the Network through a variety of sample projects and applications of sustainable agriculture methods.

## Rominger Visits NAL

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Rominger, and Mrs. Rominger were among the visitors to BARC for the "Third Annual Sustainable Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management Field Day." Following their participation in Field Day activities, they visited the National Agricultural Library, where they were greeted by NAL Deputy Director Keith Russell, who provided them with an update on NAL programs and activities, and by Tom Bryant, Jr., Executive Director of the Associates of NAL, who provided an update on the Associates. Susan Fugate gave the Romingers a tour of the library, emphasizing public ser-



Dennis Bixler (white gloves) shows the Romingers a Fuchs Herbal while Tom Bryant and Susan Fugate watch.



vices. The tour ended with an in-depth look at NAL special collections, provided by Susan Fugate, Ron Young, and Alvetta Pindell of NAL, Dennis Bixler of the Associates, and Dr. Jim Reveal, Professor of Plant Biology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

## NAL Led Earth Day Events

by Janet Wright

Head, D.C. Reference Center and Coordinator, Global Change Program, NAL

Demonstrating the commitment to deliver information in many different formats, NAL joined with other federal agencies and a group of Native Americans to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day on the National Ellipse near the White House.

"A Gathering for the Earth," hosted speakers and educational exhibits, storytellers, dancers, singers and artists—in order to raise public awareness and knowledge of global change issues and of the related information resources available from the Federal government.

Over the three-day program, an estimated 25,000 people stopped by to watch, listen and learn from the Elders. Thousands more across the country participated through video downlinks during a live, three-hour broadcast from the Ellipse and USDA television studios. The broadcast was hosted by Dan Wildcat, Chair of the Department of Science and Social Sciences at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Haskell was a co-sponsor of the broadcast.

Government spokespersons included Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ada Deer, Assistant



photo: J. Swab

Arvol Looking-Horse, Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe, Lakota, an Earth Day speaker, and Janet Wright of NAL, who led the planning and implementation of USDA's participation in Earth Day.

Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Sue Tierny, Assistant Secretary of Energy. Native American speakers included well known Native American Speakers such as Oren Lyons (Onondaga), Henrietta Mann (S. Cheyenne), Lee Piper (Cherokee), Arvol Looking-Horse (Lakota), Grace Thorpe (Sac and Fox), and Thomas Bañyacya (Hopi).

Dancers from the Thunderbird Theatre Dance Group from Haskell Indian Nations University performed their "Songs of Life," modern interpretations of Native lore and legends.

Educational exhibits illustrating environmental success stories were sponsored by the Department of Energy, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of Agriculture. Native American organizations that exhibited included the Menominee Sustainable Forest Project from Wisconsin, the Akwesasne Freedom School from New York State, and the American Eagle Magazine.

The "Gathering" was sponsored by project Earthlink, a partnership of thirteen federal agencies under the auspices of the Subcommittee on Global Change Research of the National Science and Technology Council. The long term mission of Project Earthlink is to raise public awareness and knowledge of global change issues.

A limited number of copies of the three hour broadcast are available on VHS videotape free to schools and other educational institutions. Write or call:

Dr. Lynn Mortensen  
USDA Global Change Program Office  
Room 2M08 Annex  
12th & C Streets SW  
Washington, DC 20250



photo: J. Swab

Thunderbird Theater Dance Group, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas, provided storytelling and dances at the USDA program at the ellipse near the White House.





photo: J. Swab

Grace Thorpe of the Sac and Fox Nation tells of her campaign to reverse the decisions of a number of native American Nations to accept nuclear wastes on their lands. (Thorpe is the daughter of Olympic champion Jim Thorpe.) Also on stage are Crow-with-White Feathers Smith, an Alaskan native, and Thomas Bañacya, a Hopi Nation elder.

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*E-mail: [lmortens@unlinfo.unl.edu](mailto:lmortens@unlinfo.unl.edu)*

#### Other Earth Day Events

During the 3-day event, NAL also sponsored an exhibit and demonstration of its Global Change Data & Information System; Assisted Search for Knowledge (GC-ASK) databases via the Internet on the second floor of the National Museum of Natural History on the mall in Washington, DC. Many adults and children came by and satisfied their curiosity, while others made note of this resource for future use.



photo: J. Swab

The AFSIC exhibit for Earth Day.

Simultaneously, many other agencies of the Federal government and other organizations, led by the Smithsonian Institution, sponsored environmentally-related exhibits on the mall. On all three days, these exhibits drew large crowds of people from not only the local area, but also from all over the U.S. and numerous foreign countries.

In Beltsville several of NAL's Information Centers set up exhibits with relevant information for visitors to pick up in the NAL lobby. These included the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, the Sustainable Agriculture Network, and the Water Quality Information Center.



photo by Walter Bigbee courtesy of Joanne Shenandoah

Joanne and Diane Shenandoah, noted musicians of the Oneida Nation, performed at the USDA Earth Day event.



## Staff Update



photo: J. Swab

Maria Pisa

### Pisa Named NAL Associate Director, Public Services

Pamela André, Director of the National Agricultural Library, has announced the selection of Maria G. Pisa as the NAL Associate Director for Public Services. Pisa had been NAL's Assistant Director for Policy and Planning since 1990.

In her new position, Pisa heads NAL's Public Services Division, with responsibilities for collections management, document delivery, reference services, NAL's specialized information centers and branch libraries, and orientation and outreach activities.

In announcing Pisa's selection, André said, "Since starting work at NAL 14 years ago, Maria has consistently demonstrated her commitment

to and in-depth understanding of the library's goals and responsibilities. She is tireless and insightful, and has contributed significantly to the operation of the library. NAL will benefit from these attributes even more with Maria as our new Public Services Associate Director."

Pisa began at NAL in 1981 as a reference librarian and steadily progressed to more responsible positions. In 1984-87, she was leader of Special Services and Communications, editing the library's monthly newsletter, *ALIN* (*Agricultural Libraries Information Notes*), and coordinating the library's outreach programs.

In 1987, she became Assistant to the Chief of NAL's Public Services Division and Acting Head of the Reference and User Services Branch. In these positions, she led the effort to develop NAL's computer bulletin board, ALF (*Agricultural Library Forum*), which provides electronic access to the library.

As Assistant Director, Policy and Planning, her most recent position, she assisted the Director and senior managers in NAL strategic planning and was instrumental in improving international relationships for NAL, including coordinating a series of "roundtable" conferences with agricultural librarians from eastern and central Europe and Latin America.

Before joining NAL, Pisa was a technical information specialist with the Statistical Reporting Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and taught high school English for several years in New York. She has a Master of Library Science degree from Catholic University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston University. She has written extensively on library issues and is a member of several professional societies, including the American Library Association.

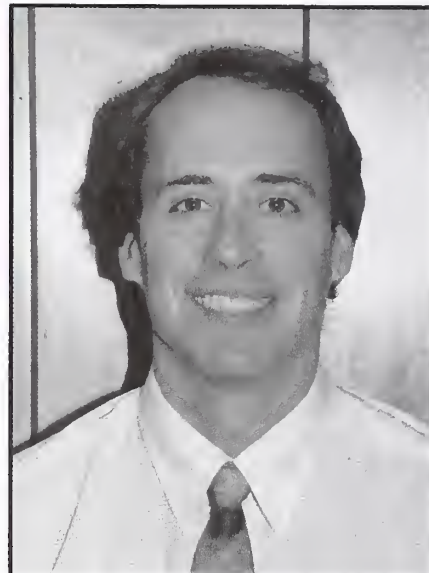


photo: J. Swab

Andy Clark

### Clark Coordinates SAN

Andrew J. Clark joined NAL's Alternative Farming Systems Information Center on June 26 as Coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN). In this position, Clark manages an electronic discussion group for sustainable agriculture, answers reference questions, helps plan and see to completion SAN publications, and helps coordinate the activities of the four regional offices of the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

The mission of the Sustainable Agriculture Network includes locating relevant information about sustainable agriculture, making that information available to users, including researchers, Extension personnel, the general public, and farmers and ranchers. SAN also identifies gaps in the knowledge base, and determines how best to fill them. Much of the work of SAN is directed at electronic dissemination of information, including the discussion group, and databases that are available by gopher or World Wide Web (WWW), as well as on diskette.

Clark earned his Ph.D in Crop Production and Management in 1993, and



his M.S. in Plant Breeding in 1988, both from the Department of Agronomy, University of Maryland at College Park. His undergraduate degree is from Georgetown University, where he majored in French.

A native of Washington, DC, Clark spends his spare time gardening (sustainably), traveling, camping, hiking, playing racquetball, and taking advantage of the many activities available through the Smithsonian Institution.

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## Bartol Is NAL's 1995 Cochran Fellow

Tomaz Bartol is spending two months at the National Agricultural Library as the library's 1995 Cochran Fellow. He comes to the U.S. from Slovenia where he is the Head of the Slovenian National AGRIS Center at Ljubljana. He set up the AGRIS center in the spring of 1994 to prepare material for the AGRIS database maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The center is a unit of the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana along with the Central Biotechnical Library, with which it cooperates and shares staff. The center provides bibliographic records for all articles and publications from Slovenia on subjects related to agriculture that have English titles, summaries, abstracts (tables, figures, graphs, etc.). In practical terms, this means most agricultural literature from Slovenia, since editors now require that these key elements or entire articles be provided by authors in English. The University, and thus the center, is funded by the Slovenian national government through the Ministries for Science and Technology and Education.

The AGRIS Center and the Central

Biotechnical Library, which is also the Slovenian national AGLINET library, work closely together. The library is the national depository for all Slovenian literature. The library has arranged exchange of publications and databases with NAL and other libraries. The library and AGRIS center are part of Slovenian networking, including the Slovenian Integrated Library System which makes accessible the shared cataloging system, technically supported by the Institute for Information Sciences in Maribor. The system maintains the Slovenian union catalog with records for all libraries, with online access, including international access via Telnet and other Internet applications. This also includes access to the Academic Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES). The AGRIS Center is the coordinating body for the Biotechnical Library Information System which cooperates with all specialized department libraries, for example, Agronomy Library, Food Science and Technology Library, Forestry Library, Wood Science and Technology Library, Zootechnical Library, and the Library of the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia.

Bartol arrived in the U.S. to begin his fellowship on October 16 and will remain in the U.S. until December 17. The fellowship includes orientation and work with all of the units of NAL, and visits to local libraries and agricultural agencies. These have already included in the first few weeks the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, the University of Maryland, the U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters, and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Arrangements are being prepared for Bartol to visit other land-grant universities and institutions outside of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Bartol is an information specialist with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's of science in biotechnical informatics. He began his career with three years as a junior researcher in the Institute for Biomedical Informatics of the Medical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, and the last



photo: J. Swab

Tomaz Bartol

five years with the Biotechnical Faculty.

Bartol is enthusiastic about his experiences here at NAL. Having tested the Telnet access to the Slovenian union catalog, and having maintained contact with his colleagues at home via e-mail, he exclaimed, "I think it's really great—all of this information technology that enables these international contacts." Continuing with regard to his impressions, Bartol said, "I find NAL an outstanding global treasury of agricultural information, and I am impressed by the library's leading role in application of new information technologies and the staff's desire to obtain whatever agriculture-related documents exist. In Slovenia we will be very pleased to participate in this endeavor. I also admire the enthusiasm of all the professionals at NAL and USDA whom I have met and their sincere eagerness to help and accommodate whatever question I happen to have. I am looking forward to my remaining training at NAL which will be, according to my experiences in the first few weeks, obviously used to the full extent. However, on weekends I cannot but indulge in the beautiful autumn colors of the downtown Washington and surrounding countryside of Maryland and Virginia. My friends here are making my stay more than comfortable."

—Joseph N. Swab



## New Serials Received at NAL

*Advances in Cellular and Molecular Biology of Plants.* Dordrecht; Boston: Kluwer Academic. Vol. 1- c1994-  
**QK728.A38**

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**aS667.F8A57**

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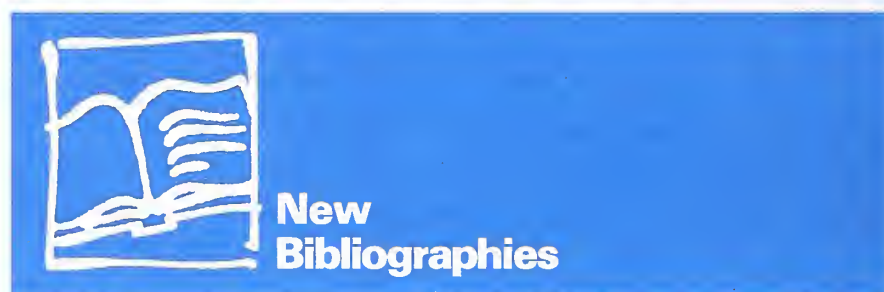
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## Special Reference Briefs

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# Field Days; Earth Day



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(Above) Exhibit entrance at the Precision Agriculture Field Day at ARS. (Below) The U.S. Capitol Mall on Earth Day, 1995.  
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